

- A truly kind & liberal thing it is of the noble
owners of this ~~exceedingly~~ other princely seats
to throw them open to the public without reserve,
& no room could be more highly valued or
more freely used: it is not unusual for a
thousand persons to visit Bolton
Abbey on one day; & even the factory operatives
who crowd her upon holidays are appreciative
visitors who know what to admire, being
familiar with the loveliest spots in the
beautiful West Riding: & they, "Oh, but it's
right fair grand!" - is discriminative
praise. The

Fountains, wanting the picturesque in ruin which ^{however} distinguishes Kirkstall, the Abbey itself is not ^{however} conspicuous amongst the northern houses.

The shell of the church is nearly entire, too much so indeed for picturesque effect. It exhibits two distinct styles of architecture; first, the twelfth century work of the original builders who appear to have finished the Choir before their migration from Embsay in 1156: the Saxon capitals of the Choir & the arches above the Chancel evidence the early date of this part of the building, the triforiated windows being ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{plainly} of late insertion: ~~secondly~~ the fourteenth century work which appears to have included a general renovation. The final effort was the sixteenth century perpendicular tower which ^{is richly decorated} ~~is somewhat~~ ^{is somewhat} of a disight to the west front: ~~above~~ this tower bears the following inscription on a kind of frieze:-

Old Church
"In the yer of our Lord m^cxx, R. ^{the} began this fondashon on q^{uo}ho soul God have merc. Amen." ^{*}
When a crescent moon is facetiously made to stand in the name of the last prior, who began a tower he was not able to finish, the order for the Dissolution of the Greater Houses stopping his work.
The front of prior Moones tower is richly decorated, showing tabernacles, containing shields & other devices, supporting diminutivall castles: the work is delicate & the effect good, but it wants the unity, the fine simplicity, of the original west front which this later excrescence darkens & sparsely conceals.

* The date is 1520, not 1620 as would appear from the unusual manner in which it is expressed. The

The nave having been reserved at the Dissolution for
the use of the 'Sacen Cure' is still the parish church.
~~Certainly~~ the Morning service in this "little chapel"
in the wood on a certain ~~fine~~ ^{in May to us} Sunday was
breat and to be forgotten. To enjoy it fully,
the visitor should settle himself as we did
in the little hamlet of ~~Stowithy~~ which is
lodged on the edge of the moors overlooking the
Abbey from the left bank of the river. From this
high ground you get a just idea of the
sort of country you are in: the sombre moor-
hills sink away on all sides, ridge behind
ridge, & at your feet is the beautiful valley -
the river to be discerned only by its woody margin.
Presently you are within the demesne, viz. by
the time you reach the Abbey, you are not ready
to sing Te Deum. The fault is with yourself. Within
things are done decently & in order; there is no
slovenliness in contrast with the outside low-
liness; the church has been worthily restored
by the late Mr. Street. ^{perhaps because a few ladies help in the choir.} The singing is unusually
pleasant, ~~the cultivated voices of a few ladies~~
~~supplementing the efforts of the choir from boys.~~

The five fine lancet windows in the south wall
are filled with modern Munich glass. The
gift of the Duke. To the north there is an aisle,
the single aisle being a curious transitional
feature peculiar to the Church of a House of Monks.
Grasses & creeping plants wave in the
windows & cling to the walls of the beautiful choir
which is entirely a ruin. The magnificent arch of the
East window is yet unbroken, but little of the tracery remains.
Bottom

i4p11cmC34

For the charm of Bolton consists in the ^{lie} singular
variety & beauty of the scenes ^{views} ~~displayed~~ ^{to be had} from
particular points of view: you can never say
you have seen the place, for who knows what
lovely peep any ~~unexplored~~ ^{undiscovered} rise may disclose!
Artists abound here; every third person you
meet - except on holidays - is an artist, but
the breadth & sweep of these scenes cannot
be got into any canvas: words are quite
foolishly inadequate, & yet we cannot help
offering the reader ^{with} one or two vignettes, even
at the risk of his, 'Pooh, this

24pl2cm234

perform manual labours: but they were gentlemen,
persons of ^{social} influence, & they early found ways to
emancipate themselves from the rigours of
conventual life rule. The Canons of Bolton who
flourished here for four centuries, from their
foundation in 1154 to the Dissolution in 1540
seem to have been average specimens of their
~~class~~ ^{order}: they formed a nucleus of civilization
in these northern wilds; many of the Bishops,
we may suppose, lived estimably, but not one
has left behind an illustrious name.

The Chapter numbered some fifteen
Canons, with a Prior, who had separate lodgings
& his own chapel, & a sub-prior, also a person of
distinction, & certain dependents. These all
lived right royally on an income of not less
than £10,000 a year of our money.

24p14cme34

poached up by "the Owners", begging that visitors
to Bolton Woods - who number sometimes 1,000 in
a day - will not loiter about the windows of the
Hall when the family is in residence: notwith-
standing which, - "T'furnitur's reght bonny
bessies. Aw've just pept in at yon window
tree?" "Hos ony boddy theer?" "Nobbut a
laidy sittin' down in a cheer an' a servant.
t'furnitur's a' cover'd up ta keep it theer?"
"Dus ta heer what shoos says, Maary yaan?
Let's goo an' hev a look!" - And half a dozen
women who feel themselves judges of
furniture if not of architecture, troop
up to the windows of the Hall: happily
no one will be inconvenienced but the
servants in charge; & during the two or
three weeks of the shooting season which
the Duke spends here a watchman guards
against such contretemps. Yet, ^{even}
Scene like the above notwithstanding, the

factory operatives who crowd her upon
holidays are appreciative visitors. They
know what to admire being familiar
with the loveliest spots in the beautiful
West Riding; & their, "Eh, but it's reght
fair grand!" - is discriminating praise.

Jas